

# Travellers lose court case over alternative housing

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TRAVELLERS have lost their court clash with Basildon Council over alternative housing.

Four travellers from the illegal Dale Farm travellers camp, in Crays Hill, launched a test civil case – funded by Legal Aid – against the council at Southend County Court.

John and Mary Flynn and John and Barbara Sheridan, who are all living on the site, had been offered council flats across the district as alternative accommodation.

They argued that because of

□ Judge rules offer of houses was acceptable

□ He refuses families the right to appeal

their nomadic lifestyles, the council should find them alternative caravan pitches rather than the council homes on offer.

However, after two weeks of deliberations, his honour Judge Peter Dedman ruled the council houses and flats in Basildon were acceptable.

He also refused the travellers leave for them to take the case to the Court of Appeal.

Tony Ball, council leader, wel-

comed the court's decision.

He said: "I hope we can now draw a line under this matter, and I would again ask those travellers living on unauthorised pitches at Dale Farm to accept they have exhausted all legal avenues and to look at moving from this site."

"I am pleased the courts have again ruled in favour of the council, and the actions we have taken with regards to trying to help those travellers on unauthorised pitches to find alternative places to live. The ruling sets out clearly that Basildon Council made suitable offers of accommodation within the council's legal responsibilities."



■ Sprawling – the Dale Farm travellers site